



Allandale Neighbor

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Happy
Fall
Y'all!

Northwest Park Vision Plan Community Engagement Sessions

Mary Fero

Austin Parks and Recreation Department has selected a landscape architecture firm to oversee work on the new Vision Plan for Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park; an official announcement will be made soon.

A robust public engagement process will provide opportunities in the weeks ahead to help guide the future development of the park. It's important for neighbors to speak up about what you'd like to see, and ANA will help keep you informed when events are scheduled.

Items that will be considered in developing the Vision Plan include:

- Enhancement of existing and/or development of new facilities and programs, including Northwest District pool, playground and picnic areas; tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, baseball field, and small pond
- Creation of design standards that reflect the natural environment and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Wanted: Community Garden Leaders

Mary Fero

The Allandale Neighborhood Association Parks Committee, in conjunction with Austin Parks & Recreation, Austin Parks Foundation, and Northwest Recreation Center, is working to establish a community garden at the Recreation Center (2913 Northland Drive).

Efforts of several neighbors serving on a steering committee have been successful in gaining approval for the concept, and preliminary site plans have been prepared. Additional project design and administrative work remains, but the progress is promising. With any luck, next year could see ground-breaking for

garden plots. Much to celebrate!

NEXT STEPS. Having succeeded in getting the project to this point, the chair of the steering committee has been called to other duties, so the group needs a new leader and would welcome additional members!

If you'd like to help create a community gathering and gardening spot that can benefit individual gardeners and demonstrate healthy food and green growing options for the community, we want to hear from you! Contact allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com ☘

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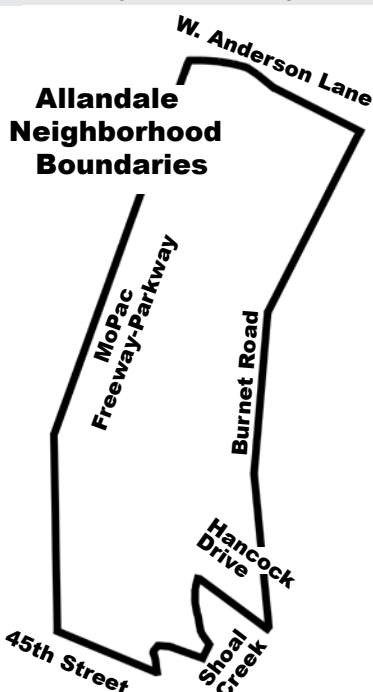
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center. General Membership meetings are held in April and October. (Meetings are currently held via Zoom)

Committees

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President's Letter

Diana Wheeler, ANA President (512) 699-1848 Allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com

Hello neighbors,
We all know that anger, hate, and fear are related emotions. They are ubiquitous in Homo sapiens, but they definitely aren't our best traits. History shows that when people act out of anger, hate, or fear, we do terrible, horrible things, which sets up a cycle of even more cruelty. History also shows that when we can overcome our base emotions and act out of love and kindness (and humor!), we can change the world for good. But darn, that's hard.... It's so easy to be fearful or angry about grievances, and want to lash out at injustice.

The ends do not justify the means. Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela all lived under more trying circumstances than I do, and their constant yet non-violent resistance moved the needle of justice. I have to keep reminding myself of that. It also helps to listen to the "Galaxy Song" from Monty Python, and laugh at the truth that of all the bits of matter in the universe, I'm fortunate to even have consciousness.

It's not easy to Be The Change we want to see in the world, but Keep Calm and Carry On... and vote! ☸

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Allandale Outside - Lavender

Faye Holland

Lavender supposedly helps with stress and anxiety, so during quarantine would be a great time to highlight a plant that might bring a little calmness to us all. Lavender is commonly seen as super simple to grow. I have not had that experience. The roots have often been quite temperamental and do not like being too damp. I have killed quite a few varieties of lavender plants over the years by too much watering and then I have killed another couple of plants with too little water. On the bright side, once they are established, they are very easy to grow. They thrive in dry soils with lots of sun and low humidity. It has been suggested to mix some gravel into the soil if it is too rich. They also do not do well in acidic soil, which shouldn't be a problem for us. Planting lavender along pathways or close to seating areas might help with fleas, mosquitos and flies. Be aware that the small, purple blooms do attract bees and butterflies.

There are four main types of lavender: English, French, Spanish and Lavadin. And each of these has multiple varieties,

too. There may be up to 450 different types! Most of the varieties grow to be two or three feet tall. And they all should grow in our climate zone in full sun, but I would ask at the plant store what specific varieties they recommend. The best time to plant is in the fall. Lavender will need to be tended more if you decide to plant them in a pot. After they bloom (in late summer) is the time to prune and shape them. This will help promote even more growth and blooms for the next year.

There have been studies done that males need to be careful to not overdo it with lavender essential oil; some people have linked it to male hormone disruption, and any essential oil can be harmful to cats. It is too concentrated to be eaten by people, as well.

I have also made a microwaveable heating pad with lavender in it. I double-seamed a rectangular pillow for strength and then filled it with rice, deer corn, and dried lavender. The best part of making your own pad is you can create any shape or any size, but be aware to not make it

too heavy. Be careful and experiment with how long to microwave it, so you do not get burned.

There are some fun drinks to make with lavender simple syrup. All lavender is edible, but some varieties are more fragrant than others. Take a handful of flowers and put them in a heat-safe bowl with a cup of sugar. Add two cups of boiling water to the sugar and flowers. Let the mixture sit for two hours and then strain out the flowers. You should have a nicely lavender-hinted simple syrup that you can use for making lemonade. Just add one and half cups of lemon juice and two cups of water and then pour over ice. I learned about this lemonade flavor because it was mentioned in the children's chapter book *Betty Before X*, about the early years of Malcolm X's wife, Betty Shabazz.

Here is a fun adult beverage recipe to try: pour two ounces of gin, one ounce of the lavender simple syrup above, and one-and-a-half ounces of lemon juice in a glass with ice. Top it off with some Prosecco or

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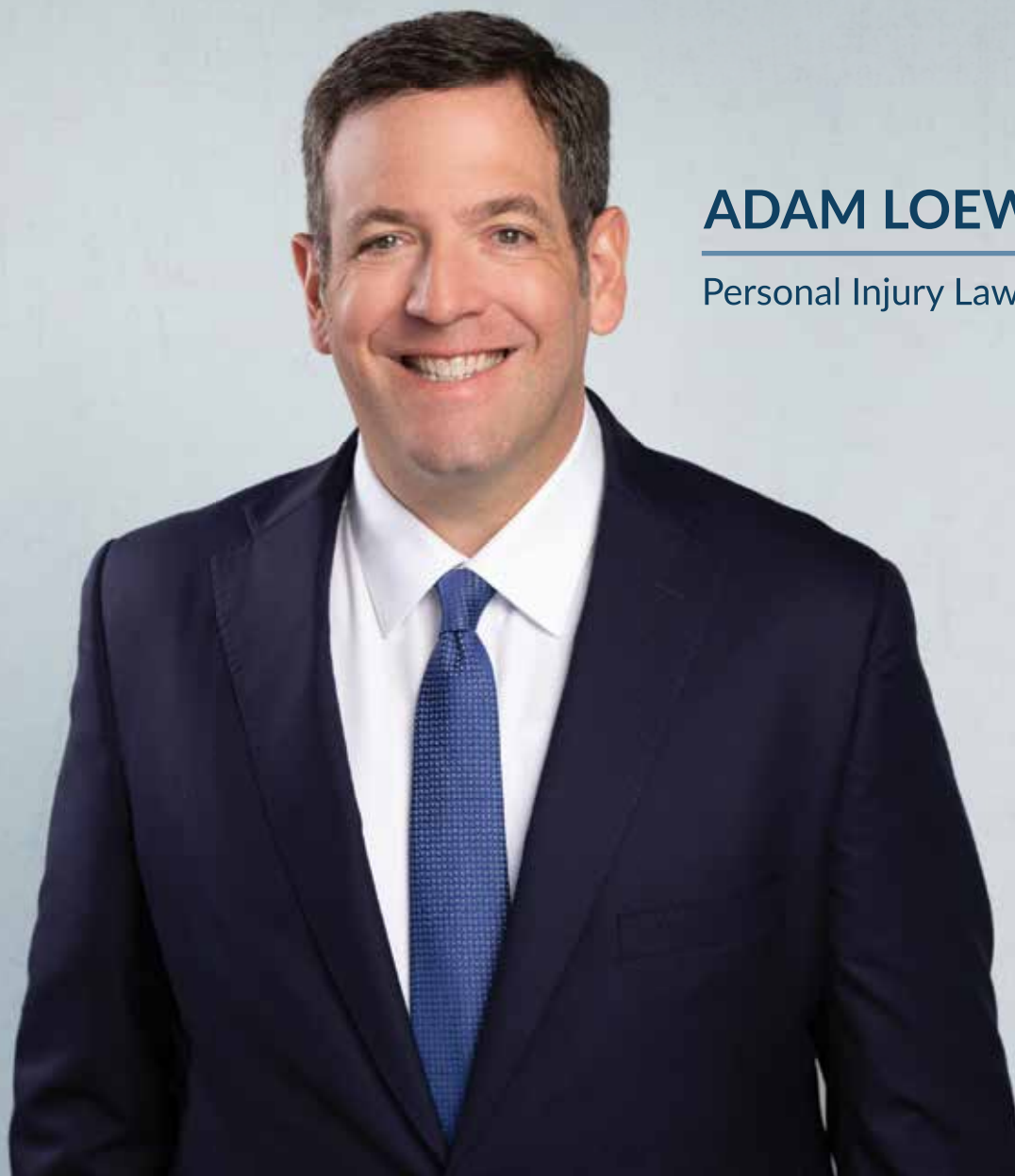
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Allandale Outside - Lavender

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sparkling water. Gently stir and add a sprig of lavender for garnish. Enjoy some relaxing time outside in your garden with a fun drink, and let yourself slow down.

Gullett Fall Plant Sale is October 24 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at 5912 Carleen Drive. We will have veggie starts and homegrown succulents. We are looking into ways to help with the Gullett Park during this time, and we have the opportunity to apply for a neighborhood grant through the Austin Parks Foundation to build a small outdoor stage area. Could you please help by taking this quick two-question survey? <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PJ2R2QL> or <https://tinyurl.com/yxa4y7n3> ☼

LETTUCE RECYCLE: The Plastic Bag Conundrum

Dena Houston

Recycling plastic bags and plastic film is very confusing. Many plastic bags are labeled “recyclable”; that leads us to believe that plastic bags can be placed in our blue curbside bins. In fact, plastic bags can **ONLY** go to special bins for plastic bag and film collection. These bins are found at most grocery stores.

Plastic bags should **NOT** go into the blue curbside collection bin because they get caught in the machinery at the recycling facility, and their removal is costly.

Plastic bags should **NOT** go into the green curbside compost collection cart; they do not compost. **ONLY COMPOSTABLE BAGS** should go into the green carts.

The following is a list of what should go into the plastic and film collection bins:

- Clean and dry Ziploc bags
- Plastic cereal box liners
- Air pillows for shipping (deflate)
- Bubble wrap
- Shopping bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags (remove labels)
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Film wrap on cases of water bottles,

paper towels, etc.

- Plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels)

There are some plastics that should not go into these bins because they are treated with special polymers that keep food fresh or allow the plastic to hold more weight. This treatment prevents the plastic from being recycled. The following plastics should **NOT** go into grocery store collection bins:

- Frozen food plastic bags
- Plastic bags for soil, fertilizer, and compost
- Prewashed salad mix bags
- Candy bar wrappers
- Chip bags

To add to the confusion, there is a plastic bag available that is advertised as “kitchen bag for recyclables.” **THIS BAG IS NOT RECYCLABLE IN AUSTIN’S RECYCLING SYSTEM.** This product’s availability adds another layer of confusion to recycling plastic bags.

CELLOPHANE CONUNDRUM! At this time, there is no way to recycle cellophane. How to tell the difference between cellophane and recyclable plastic? Cellophane makes a crinkling noise and is usually transparent. It must go into the trash cart.

FOOD-CONTAMINATED PLASTIC

Plastic that has food product on it cannot be recycled. Examples are:

- Hot dog plastic wrappers
- Bags from shredded or packaged cheese

- Plastic that comes wrapped around hams or turkeys
- Ziploc bags that have contained meat, cheese, animal by-product, or oil

PLEASE REMEMBER – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to recycling@hpwbana.org ☼

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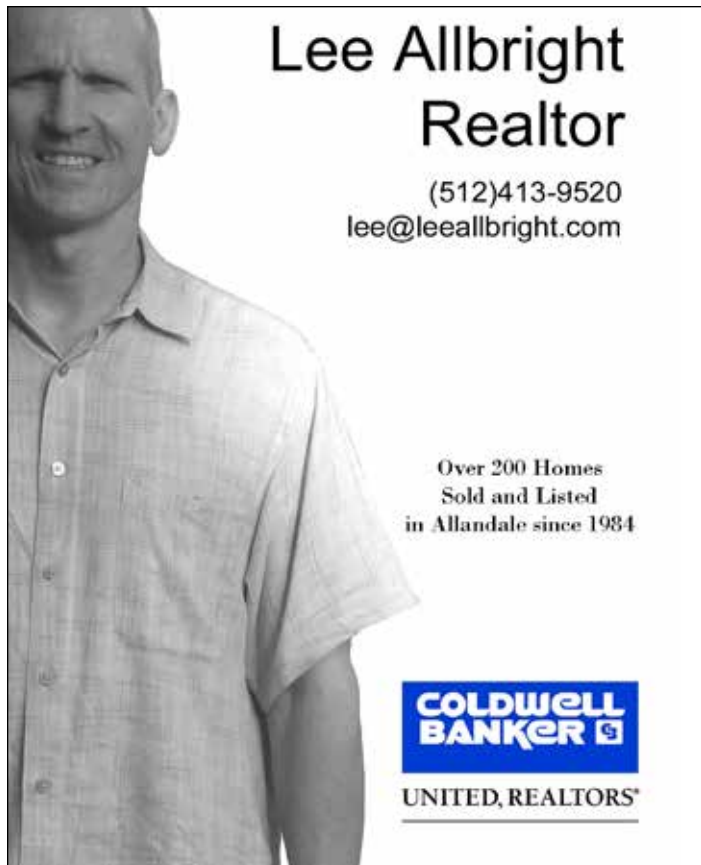
Northwest Park Vision Plan Community Engagement Sessions

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character of the park and its features, including the associated Shoal Creek watershed

- Preservation of ecological, cultural and historical resources of the park
- Potential for adding interpretative and educational components

- Implementation of accessibility features throughout the park
- Transportation planning that considers opportunities for bike routes through the park, enhancement and expansion of the trail system, and strategies to reduce the impact of existing parking



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Additionally, the consultant will conduct a site assessment of existing topography, park conditions, floodplains and riparian buffers, water resources, native plants, and invasive species.

A technical advisory group from PARD, Watershed Protection, and other city departments will collaborate on this expansive project. Critical to the park Vision Plan will be successful coordination with the Watershed Protection plan to rehabilitate the Northwest Park flood control dam (the levee between the park and the creek).

That very substantial Shoal Creek – Northwest Park Dam Rehabilitation and Modernization project will begin this fall with hydrology and hydraulic modeling to gauge the impact on the dam during maximum high-water events. Further engineering assessments will determine the full scope of the project, which also may have a significant impact on the potential restoration of the pond.

Although dam construction will not begin until 2024, the Vision Plan for Northwest Park will allow for phased-in, short-term components and longer-term goals that may be completed in conjunction with the dam restoration.

The Vision Plan process will include input from diverse stakeholders: Northwest District Park users, area residents and businesses, neighborhood organizations, conservancy and other interest groups, current park contractors, Spanish-speaking and other limited-English-proficient park users.

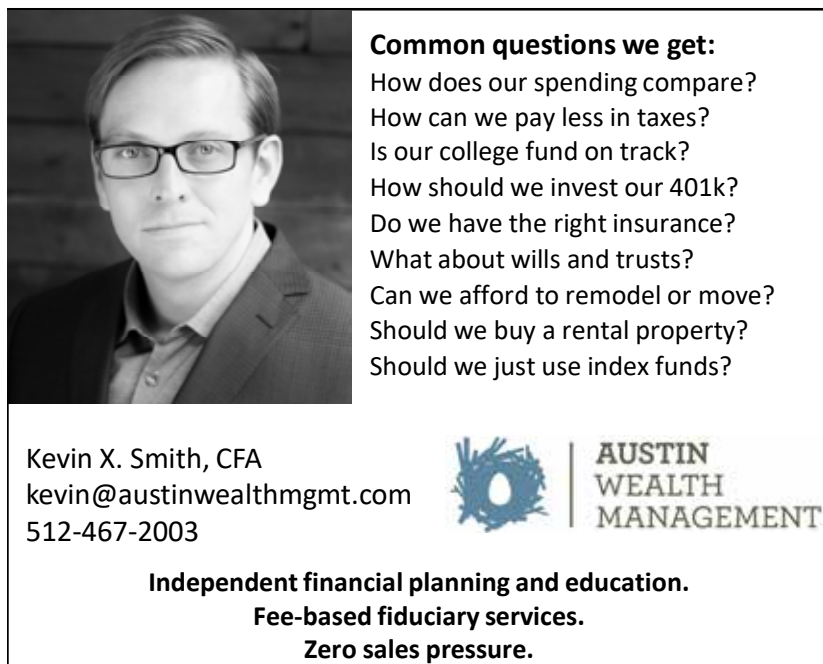
It's vital that Allandale neighbors speak out about what you'd like to see in Northwest Park! From better-connected trails to pool replacement, pond preservation, playground upgrades, and sport amenities, plan to voice your opinion and help create the vision!

You will be able to monitor project updates at the city's website:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/beverly-sheffield-northwest-district-park-vision-plan>

City staff and their consultants will notify the public about community engagement sessions, and ANA will share information via our email group and the ANA website. This is a unique opportunity to help create new amenities and preserve the qualities of Northwest Park that have been appreciated for 65 years. We encourage you to participate!

Special thanks to Council Member Leslie Pool for her assistance and advocacy for Northwest Park, pool and pond on behalf of Allandale neighbors! ❧



Common questions we get:
How does our spending compare?
How can we pay less in taxes?
Is our college fund on track?
How should we invest our 401k?
Do we have the right insurance?
What about wills and trusts?
Can we afford to remodel or move?
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Allandale Eating – Quick Bites

Robert E. Mace, Dining from Daugherty

According to Yelp, almost 20,000 restaurants have permanently closed in the United States as of August 31. Restaurant sales in Texas are down about a third from last year, with about half of Texas restaurants saying they will close permanently unless business picks up or they receive more aid. Given those numbers (one restaurant closing per 16,410 people in the U.S.), Austin's restaurant scene seems to be faring well, with Eater Austin reporting about 30 closures (although I suspect there are more). I count three Covid-related closures in the Allandale area (Be More Pacific, Chocolaterie Tessa, and Brama [not on Eater's list]) with the nearby Dart Bowl and Threadgill's also succumbing to the virus. Several places (such as Pour House Pub and Jack Allen's Kitchen) are temporarily closed (with Jack Allen's planning to open back up on October 5). Luby's also appeared to be on the verge of collapse, but a new owner may save it (our Luby's remains open). The Guv increased restaurant capacity to 75% on September 21, so perhaps that will help, but we, for ones, will continue to vigorously partake of take-out and delivery until this whole mess is over.

Despite the economic uncertainty, new places are opening up. Vanilla Orchid, a caterer at 7433 Burnet Road, has opened a side hustle called Chicken Salad Shoppe, where you can order -- you guessed it -- chicken salad sandwiches and wraps (two chicken thumbs up!). And Kitchen United is now sporting some 15 chowslingers. Old Thousand (4805 Burnet Road) is closer to completion, with a small sign identifying itself under a large panda and even larger words yelping "Dope Chinese" (a crowned RBG portrait will greet customers). Thom's Market announced plans to open up in the old 7-11 at 5901 Burnet Road, where you can expect lots of local products and ye olde Austin vibe. Jewboy Burgers moved from the trailer park at 5000 Burnet Road into brick and mortar at 5111 Airport Boulevard (and received a rave review for their Goyim Burger from Matt Odem at the local newspaper).

If you've been worried about Trudy's bankruptcy (as we have), rest assured that although they've been bought at auction by North Carolina's Hargett Hunter Capital Management, it comes from a place of love. One of Hargett Hunter's managing partners, Jeff Brock, fell head over lemon peels with Trudy's and their Mexican martini some 20 years ago during his college years. You can expect restaurant upgrades and, possibly, an expansion of Trudy's fare to more of the country.

There hasn't been much in the way of awards and kudos the past couple of months, but Culturemap named Austin Beerwerks (3001 Industrial Terrace) one of Austin's top five breweries and, via its Tastemaker awards, recognized Foreign &

Domestic as its neighborhood restaurant of the year, Eldorado for the best queso, and Bufalina (Due) for the wine program of the year.

Please visit austinwanderlist.com for photos and links. ☿

Gullett Good News

Nathaniel Rostvold

On Monday, October 5, Gullett Elementary welcomed back its first students since March 13. Initially, enrollment was capped at 25 percent capacity; however, every two weeks, 25 percent more students will be allowed back on campus. With many students opting to remain online, teachers will be teaching both online and in-person students at the same time. The amazing Gullett faculty and staff have been working tirelessly



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Gullett Good News

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for months on creative solutions to make this learning environment work for all students.

In other news, Gullett will hold their annual fall festival this year on Saturday, October 24 from 1-5pm. This will be our first-ever, COVID-19-friendly Gullett Carnival Trail. Gullett families will safely wind their way through our wonderful neighborhood, participating in awesome games at every stop, and maintaining proper social distancing by design. Costumes are encouraged and proper masks are required, but FUN will be guaranteed for all!

The annual Gullett plant sale will also be held on October 24 from 9-12 pm.

The AISD board has voted made election day, Tuesday November 3, a student holiday, as many schools are used as polling places. This is to minimize student contact with voters.

Despite the pandemic, Gullett remains strong and will continue to innovate and improve through the challenges of this turbulent time. ☼

All About Lamar

Rick Schumacher



School is different now. We all feel the pressure -- students, caregivers, and certainly our hardworking teachers. This past week, blended school has begun with a mix of on-campus and virtual learning. This is not ideal, but everyone is making the best of it, as far as I have seen. I think it is incumbent upon us to give as much grace as we can to the teachers and staff at Lamar.

With no end in sight to this topsy-turvy situation, we need to remember to focus on not only the wellbeing of our students' education but also make room for everyone's emotional wellbeing as well.

If you are a sending your children to the school facility, please remember that Austin ISD is following CDC guidance for schools regarding the use of face coverings:

- Wearing a face covering will be required for all students, staff, and visitors while on Austin ISD grounds.
- Staff conducting health screenings will be required to wear face masks and face shields.
- All adults and students ages two and older must wear a face mask that covers the mouth and nose.

- As recommended by the CDC, time will be dedicated to teaching and reinforcing the use of face coverings.
- Reusable cloth face masks must be washed daily.
- Bandanas, neck gaiters, and face masks with air vents will not be allowed.
- Face shields will be provided to all who are required to wear one.

Accommodations to the required use of face masks and/or shields will be made on a case-by-case basis for students and staff.

Additionally, remember that there are a lot of kids who are still learning online and who may be out and about in the community. Look twice before stepping on the gas. ☼

It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates



Check the website for current information (mccallumhs.com) or follow Mac Journalism either online (macshiel-donline.com) or on Instagram. And the Mac counselors' website is a great reference (<https://www.maccounselors.com/>). ☼

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Business Bastions of Burnet Road Bend But Do Not Break

John E. Byers

Nearly 400 businesses operate along the four-mile stretch of Burnet Road from West 45th Street to 183. That is no mean feat at this point in the pandemic chapter of Austin's history. There have been several business casualties since that time, but a steely group of businesses, each tempered by 40+ years of survival, have altered their business models to embrace the new pandemic demands.

H.E.B., Roger Beasley Mazda, Top Notch Hamburgers, The Frame Corner, Big O's Pit BBQ, Burnet Road Self Storage, Genie Car Wash and Karavel Shoes are the granddaddies of Burnet Road.

H.E.B. has operated in Allandale since 1950. Many factors drove sales upward -- school closures and stay-at-home parents, restaurant shutdowns, and the grocers' timely start-up of its Curbside on-line order program. An H.E.B. employee described the program's volume increase as "crazy."

The Roger Beasley Mazda dealership

was scheduled for a major showroom remodeling expansion, which remained on track through the spring, summer and into the fall. The Mazda dealership was one of the very first licensed in North America, and has been located continuously on either side of Burnet Road since 1971.

Also in 1971, Top Notch Hamburgers began grilling burgers over a true charcoal fire. The owners closed the restaurant at the onset of the pandemic, posting notice that they could not in good conscience knowingly place their employees and customers at risk. The busi-

ness reopened in mid-summer with take-out or carhop drive-in service only.

For The Frame Corner shop south of Greenlawn Parkway, the pandemic was the proverbial "final straw." It has operated for 50 years. The proprietor, Peggy Linehan, was already upset with a

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Business Bastions of Burnet Road Bend But Do Not Break

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

planned City of Austin street modification for the middle/turn lane of Burnet Road. It is touted to enhance mobility options, but has been contested by many Burnet Road merchants. In July, Ms. Linehan simply packed up her business and relocated it 45 miles west to Burnet, Texas, to start a new chapter there.

The faded Genie Car Wash was shut down for two months as stay-at-home customers had lessened initiative to maintain a shiny, clean car. The 52-year-old car wash reopened in July and is now doing full-service washes; an employee reports business is not far off its normal volume.

Unexpected developments impacted businesses. Orlando Arriaga at Big O's Pit BBQ was hit with a steep increase in the price of raw briskets precipitated by shut-downs of several Midwest meatpacking plants, which caused a market shortage. That required him to increase his price for cooked brisket by 30%.

Karavel Shoes has fitted four generations of Austinites with footwear. The business began in 1937 at the tail end of the Great Depression and moved to Burnet Road in 1960. Customers' temperatures are checked before entry, and individual fitting booths were created with PVC pipe and a canvas material to increase customer safety.

Burnet Road Self Storage has depended on both local customers and new arrivals who need storage in Austin. Since 1978,

the 1,725-unit facility has maintained a high fill rate, due primarily to its central location just north of Lamar Middle School. General manager Kathy Hall reports there has been a surge in business as a result of the pandemic: "We have a lot of restaurant equipment and office furniture stored here, due to all the closings. Many people working from home are going to continue to do so even when Covid is gone from our lives, and sadly, many of these small businesses will never come back." ❧



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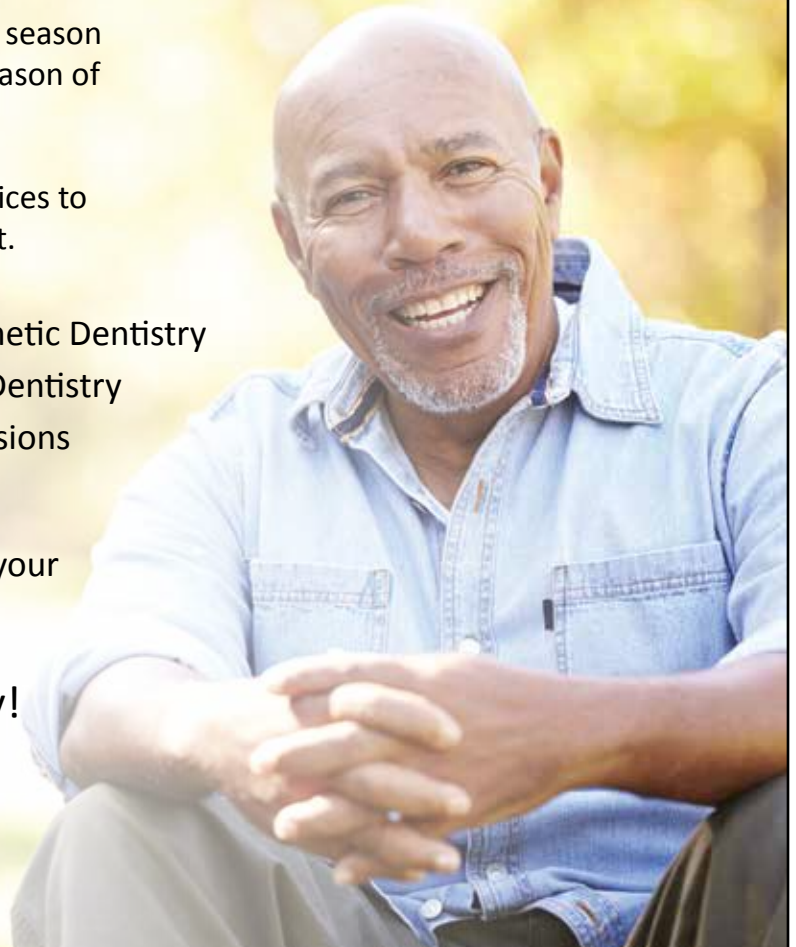
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- Oscar Wilde



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